

CONGRATULATING JEFF
THEERMAN

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jeff Theerman, the Executive Director of the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, on his election as the new President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA).

For over twenty-five years, Mr. Theerman has served St. Louis through his work at the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District. During his tenure with the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, he has demonstrated that he is an accomplished leader and committed environmental steward continuously working to improve the public health of the St. Louis region. In October of 2003, Mr. Theerman became the Executive Director, ably accepting the accountability of the organization's operations.

Since joining others in the founding of the NACWA forty years ago, the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District has benefitted from its active engagement with the organization. A member of the NACWA's Board of Directors since 2004, Mr. Theerman has served as the organization's Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President. I find it fitting that his election as President coincides with the 40th anniversary of the NACWA's advocacy on behalf of the Nation's clean water agencies and the environment we all value so much.

It is my sincere pleasure to congratulate Mr. Theerman on becoming the President of NACWA. I am certain his dedication to his work will bring continued progress to proactively and effectively addressing the complex 21st century water quality challenges we face in St. Louis and the Nation.

There is no doubt in my mind that Mr. Theerman is the ideal leader for the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, NACWA.

A STRONG VOICE AGAINST DISCRIMINATION OF ALL SORTS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I was very proud in the 70's to show my support for appropriate bipartisanship by supporting and working closely with Senator Ed Brooke, who was twice elected to the Senate as a Republican and was a staunch fighter against discrimination, for strong support for rental housing for low-income people, and in general for fiscal responsibility within the context of social concerns. I was therefore very pleased, but not at all surprised, to read in the Boston Globe on June 22, 2010 a strong expression of support for repeal of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which has discriminated against so many patriotic Americans seeking to serve their country. Senator Brooke notes that he himself was the victim of discriminatory policies when he served in a segregated U.S. Army in World War II, and as an African American, was treated unfairly. He does affirm

that there are differences in the effect of the policies and the impact they have between racial segregation and "don't ask, don't tell," but as he says after discussing the experience of racial segregation, "The point is that the ban (on gay and lesbian members in the military) is a weapon and expression of prejudice—no more excusable than any other discriminatory law."

Consistent with his lifelong record of fighting for fairness in America, Senator Brooke closes the article by saying, "If I was still in the Senate, I would vote to show my respect for the sacrifices of all soldiers—gay and straight. Congress should repeal this legislation and score another victory of progress over prejudice."

Madam Speaker, I was proud to stand with Ed Brooke in the 70's and I am very proud that he is standing with those of us who are fighting for fairness today.

IN TRIBUTE TO JIM MEREDITH

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to Jim Meredith, who has retired from the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board of Directors in Simi Valley, California, after 28 years.

Jim was Chairman of the Board in 1984, 1991, 1994, 1995, 1999, 2003 and 2008. He was Vice Chairman in 1990, 1993, 1998, 2002 and 2007. In addition, he was President of the Ventura County Special District Association for 10 years, President of the State Board of the California Association of Recreation and Park Districts in 1991 and 2004, President of the California Special Districts Association Board of Directors, member of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Board Liaison Committee, etc., etc. etc.

It's easy to see why Jim is known around town as "Mr. Parks and Rec."

While Jim was on the board, the District budget increased from \$3.5 million to \$16 million, 303 acres of park land were developed and an additional 3,820 acres of land was acquired. Since Jim's first election, the District has added 37 parks to the system and 11 after-school clubs.

Jim was instrumental in nearly every one of the district's expansion decisions during those years. As someone who was a professional baseball player and involved in youth baseball, the Royal High School girl's softball program, adult women's softball program, co-ed softball, youth football, the Simi Valley High School and Royal High School football programs, semi-pro football, soccer programs and the Boy Scouts, Jim has an intimate knowledge of what the community's recreation needs are and how to fill them.

As a result of his vision and dedication, Jim has been recognized with the Founder's Award from the Ventura County Special Districts Association; Board Member of the Year from the California Association of Recreation & Park Districts; 2002 Board Member of the Year from the American Park & Recreation Society; and the 2002 Meritorious Service Citizen Award from the American Park & Recreation Society.

In addition to his recreational activities, Jim is a member of Disabled American Veterans, Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club, Simi Valley Historical Society and the Simi Valley Christian Foundation for Homeless.

Jim also found the time to be a husband, father and grandfather during those years. He and Amy have been married for more than 50 years and have five children and numerous grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, the mark James L. Meredith leaves on Simi Valley and Oak Park—the communities the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District serves—is both deep and enduring. I know my colleagues join me in thanking Jim for his tireless dedication to his community and in wishing him and Amy great joy in their retirement.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS HOUR

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me begin my thanking my friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from Ohio, Congresswoman FUDGE, for anchoring once again tonight's Congressional Black Caucus' special hour.

This Congress and President Obama have made tough choices and taken effective steps to bring our economy back from the brink of disaster. The Recovery Act has already saved or created up to 2.8 million jobs and much of the TARP funding repaid. Now we are taking another key step forward with a final agreement on the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

For many months now, members of the Congressional Black Caucus continue to be laser focused on financial reform. We have sought to engage the Obama administration, House and Senate leadership, committee chairs, and our coalition partners to develop a legislative strategy aimed at addressing the needs of millions of Americans who are struggling in this tough, economic environment.

Mr. Speaker, we must reform Wall Street to end risky practices that have caused millions of Americans to lose their jobs, their homes, and life savings. The House passed a financial reform bill that will protect consumers and prevent the irresponsible behavior that caused the financial melt down.

I was proud to join a majority of my colleagues in this body in supporting passage of Wall Street. We are committed to protect American families and their savings.

We ended the practice of "too big to fail." We established safeguards to ensure that the abuses of the past are never again repeated. Mr. Speaker, the House made Wall Street reform a priority.

Every day of delay is one more opportunity for a recurrence of economic uncertainty and even collapse. Last Thursday's roller coaster on the stock market was a clear reminder that we cannot allow a willful lack of responsible oversight to expose American families, American business, and our whole economy to such potential risk.